

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically managing payment media capacity of a payment media handling apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a payment media operation;

automatically determining the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation by comparing information provided in the payment media operation request to information including determining the payment media in the payment media handling apparatus; and

managing payment media capacity by performing a payment media action
based on a result obtained from the automatic determination of the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation,

wherein the payment media operation includes at least one of a payment media acceptance operation, a start fund operation, a payment media change dispensing operation, a payment media advance operation and a bank deposit operation,

wherein the request for a payment media operation is made by an entity including one of at least a till, a bank, a CIT operator and a ~~supervisor~~supervisor, and

wherein the step of performing a payment media action runs parallel to the performance of other payment media actions.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request for the payment media operation is automatically provided by a controller in response to instructions stored on a machine-readable storage medium.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request for the payment media operation is provided by an operator.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment media handling apparatus manages the payment media operation for one or more retail stores having one or more payment media originating sources.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation includes at least a determination of a payment media capacity of the payment media handling apparatus.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the determination of a payment media capacity of the payment media handling apparatus is performed using one of a physical measuring device and a payment media accounting technique.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the physical measuring device comprises one or more of a weight measuring device and a payment media stack height measuring device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment media action comprises at least one of the payment media operation, an annunciation action, a payment media pickup request action, a payment media delivery request action, a payment media pickup redirect action and a payment media deposit redirect action.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the annunciation action informs a supervisory entity in the retail store of the result obtained from the automatic determination of the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the payment media pickup request action and payment media delivery request action are provided to at least one of a banking entity or a cash-in-transit operator.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the payment media pickup redirect action and the payment media deposit redirect action direct the operator to another cash handling apparatus to complete the payment media operation.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically determining the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation is performed based on at least one of a group of rules stored in a lookup table, instructions provided for a retail store, instructions provided by an entity other than a retail store, and instructions based on real time or substantially real time analysis of payment media activity information that is electronically obtained in a retail store during a predetermined period of time, wherein a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the group of rules includes a consideration of at least one of retailer type, retailer size, retailer location, the specific cash accepting device requesting the payment media action, time of day for the payment media action, calendar date for the payment media action, calendar date of national or local holidays, calendar date of scheduled festivities or organized events, and a retail store scheduled sales event.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the payment media activity information comprises electronic point of sale (EPOS) data, payment media refund amount information, frequency and size of cash refunds processed within a predetermined period of time, dispensed payment media information or received payment media information from an automatic teller machine located in a retail store, a value, type and denomination of payment media available to effect the particular payment media operation, and payment media pickup or delivery information scheduled by a cash-in-transit operator.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the instructions provided by the entity other than a retail store are provided to a retail store via a communication network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing the payment media action requires no additional input from the operator other than the request for the payment media operation.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium that provides instructions for electronically managing payment media capacity of a payment media handling apparatus, the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

processing a request for a payment media operation;

automatically determining the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation by comparing information provided in the payment media operation request to information including determining the payment media in the payment media handling apparatus; and

managing payment media capacity by performing a payment media action
based on a result obtained from the automatic determination of the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation,

wherein the payment media operation includes at least one of a payment media acceptance operation, a start fund operation, a payment media change dispensing operation, a payment media advance operation and a bank deposit operation,

wherein the request for a payment media operation is made by an entity including one of at least a till, a bank, a CIT operator and a ~~supervisor~~ supervisor;

wherein performing a payment media action runs parallel to the performance of other payment media actions.

19. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein determining the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation includes at least a determination of a payment media capacity of the payment media handling apparatus.

20-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system for electronically managing payment media capacity of a payment media handling apparatus, comprising a controller that:

processes a request for a payment media operation;

automatically determines the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation by comparing information provided in the payment media operation request to information including determining the payment media in the payment media handling apparatus; and

~~performs~~manages payment media capacity by performing a payment media action based on a result obtained from the automatic determination of the possibility of performing the requested payment media operation,

wherein the payment media operation includes at least one of a payment media acceptance operation, a start fund operation, a payment media change dispensing operation, a payment media advance operation and a bank deposit operation,

wherein the request for a payment media operation is made by an entity including one of at least a till, a bank, a CIT operator and a ~~supervisor~~supervisor;

wherein the performance of a payment media action runs parallel to the performance of other payment media actions.

25-64. (Canceled)